GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3279
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PROTECTING CLASSICAL TRIBAL ARTIFACTS
Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many classical, folk and tribal artifacts are in a state of neglect; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) &(b): Government has drawn up various schemes to take care of and promote the classical, folk and tribal artifacts.

The Scheme for promotion and dissemination of Tribal/Folk art and culture provides grants and subsidies for undertaking projects for

(i) documentation, research, survey and photographic record of artistic manifestations of tribal art;
(ii) identify systems of formal and non-formal education to disseminate awareness of the richness of the tribal culture and life; and
(iii) preservation and propagation of tribal art, crafts, oral traditions and other facets of tribal and rural culture.

Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs) were set up by the Government with the objective to preserve and promote various art forms particularly folk art forms including artifacts. These centres have been taking effective steps to preserve and promote folk/tribal artifacts through Shilp Mela and workshop-cum-exhibitions. Besides this, ZCCs operate two schemes: Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms and Guru Shishya Parampara to preserve and promote folk/tribal art.

The Scheme for financial assistance for `Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums` provides, inter-alia, grant for the professional development of museums for the promotion and preservation of artifacts including antiquities, numismatics, paintings, ethnological collections, folk art etc. The National Museum, New Delhi has an Anthropological Section with a rich collection of about 4500 Tribal art objects and there is a permanent gallery depicting the tribal life style of the North-East.

Under the Cultural Talent Search Scholarships Scheme, the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training has taken steps to revive tribal craft and artifacts. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati organizes workshops on various streams of art forms of North East.

Anthropological Survey of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangralaya are responsible for researching, documenting and preserving folk and tribal artifacts as well as generating awareness about folk and tribal lifestyle.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to the State Governments for Tribal Research Institutes for research, evaluation studies, seminars/workshops, training programmes and museums, which includes the exhibition and preservation/conservation of tribal artifacts.

Apart from these schemes, the major museums also ensure the preservation and conservation of artifacts in their possession.